

Indigenous

Common names: **Kwamba:** Bombo **Luganda:** Nabulere **Runyoro:** Muyati.

Ecology: A tree of lowland rain forest from West Africa, Zaire to Sudan. It is a huge upperstorey tree emerging above the tree canopy and has fern-like foliage. In Uganda, the tree is commonly found in tropical rain forest associated with *Entandophragma* spp. and *Ficus* spp. It is abundant in Budongo and Bugoma Forests.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, timber (heavy construction, railway sleepers, flooring blocks), shade, ornamental.

Description: A deciduous tree to 20-50 m, the straight bole tapering very little to the spreading crown; large buttresses at the base have rounded edges. **BARK:** quite thick, **grey-brown**, cracking into rectangles (smaller than *Entandophragma utile*). **LEAVES:** **pinnate, 25-45 cm long with 12-14 pairs of leaflets**, each narrow oval 3-8 cm, **shortly stalked**, tip bluntly pointed, base rounded, with numerous **gland dots** (seen when held up to the light), young leaves covered with fine yellow hairs. **FLOWERS:** yellow-green on stalks 1-4 cm below leaves, characteristic **rounded buds** (no petals) with a **large calyx which splits into 3 as the flower opens**, only 12-18 stamens. **FRUIT:** **round and green and stalked, about 5 cm across**, containing 1-3 large brown seeds, 4-7 cm long, in soft pulp.

Propagation: Seedlings (sow seed in pots), wildings.

Seed: Collect ripe fruit, squeeze out the seed and dry gradually. Susceptible to insect attack.

treatment:

storage: mix with ash and store in a cool and dry place.

Management: Slow growing; lopping, pollarding.

Remarks: A magnificent tree. Suitable for intercropping with coffee, cocoa and banana or for planting with mahoganies or *Maesopsis eminii* in a mixed stand. Also good as a shade tree. The wood is a handsome pale colour and is durable both in the ground and in water.

